

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Front Range LLC Pipeline Easement Application
Proposed Implementation Date: 2018
Proponent: Front Range Pipeline LLC, 803 US Highway 212 South, Laurel, MT 59044
Location: NWSE Sec 13, T25N, R1W
County: Teton
Trust: Public Land Trust-Navig Rivers, (PLT-NR)

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Front Range Pipeline LLC has requested to install a new 16" crude oil pipeline across the Teton River. The pipeline will replace their old pipeline which is currently only 4-5 feet below the Teton River. The old pipeline will be capped and abandoned in place. The new pipeline will be installed with a directional boring machine and placed at an approximate 50' depth. The easement will be 50.00' wide through the state-owned riverbed.

Township	Range	Section	Fiber Optic Cable Location	Acres Affected	Trust	County
25N	1W	13	NW4SE4	0.10	PLT-NR	Teton
TOTALS				0.10		

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Front Range Pipeline LLC-Proponent
DNRC-Riverbed Owner

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The applicant has acquired the required 310 permit for construction in and around the Teton River.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Deny Front Range Pipeline LLC permission to the installation of a 16" crude oil pipeline and the abandonment of the existing pipeline in place, under the Teton River.

Alternative B (the Proposed action) – Grant Front Range Pipeline LLC permission to the installation of a 16" crude oil pipeline and abandon the existing pipeline in place, under the Teton River.

Alternative C – Grant Front Range Pipeline LLC permission to the installation of a 16" crude oil pipeline and require removal of the existing pipeline, under the Teton River.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES* potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.
- Explain **POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS** following each resource heading.
- Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Soils at the proposed project site are silty in texture. These soils and slopes are generally suitable for the installation of the 16" crude oil pipeline by a directional boring machine. Equipment will not be placed in the riverbed, so no damage to the soils is expected due to the proposed project. Cumulative impacts on soil resources are not expected as the use of a direction boring machine will minimize the surface disturbance caused by the construction project.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

No private water rights will be impacted by the proposed easement. Other water quality and/or quantity issues will not be impacted by the proposed action as no surface disturbance will occur.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

The proposed action will not impact the air quality.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Vegetation will not be impacted as 85.00 feet of 16" crude oil pipeline will be installed by the utilization of a directional boring machine. The vegetation consists primarily of native species and introduced species. Noxious and annual weeds within the proposed construction areas are a concern, but this concern will be mitigated as the applicants are responsible for controlling weeds within the construction areas. Cumulative impacts on the vegetative resources are not expected as the proposed project will consist of no surface disturbance on state owned land

A review of Natural Heritage data through the NRIS was conducted for T25N, R1W: There were no plant species of concern noted or potential species of concern noted on the NRIS survey.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

The area is not considered critical wildlife habitat. However, this tract provides habitat for a variety of big game species (mule deer, whitetail deer, and pronghorn antelope), predators (coyote, fox, and badger), upland game birds (sharp tail grouse, Hungarian partridge), other non-game mammals, raptors and various songbirds. The proposal does not include any land use change which would yield changes to the wildlife habitat. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the installation of the buried fiber optic cable. The proposed action will not have long-term negative effects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

There are no threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitat types, or other species of special concern associated with the proposed project area. At this time, no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources have been identified within the proposed project area.

A review of Natural Heritage data through the NRIS was conducted for T25N, R1W: There were six species of concern and zero potential species of concern noted on the NRIS survey: Birds-Baird's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and Long-billed Curlew. Reptiles-Spiny Softshell and Greater Short-horned Lizard. Fish-Sauger. This tract of riverbed does not contain many, if any of these species. If any are present, they will not be impacted as a directional boring machine will be used to install the 16" crude oil pipeline and no surface disturbance will occur.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

The area of potential effect (APE) consists of the Teton River riverbed. No surface disturbance will occur on the project. No additional cultural resource inventory work is recommended. There will be No Effect to state owned Heritage Properties.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Installation of the buried 16" crude oil pipeline will not affect the aesthetics of the land in any way as it will not be visible. It will lead to no erosion of the soil resources on the tract as the line is located below the soil surface.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tract listed on this EA.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.• Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.• Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

The proposed project will not change human safety in the area.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The results of this project will not affect the industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities or production in the area.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

This project will not create any new jobs, as the project will be completed in house by the proponent.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

The proposed action will add to the tax revenue.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

This project is of a small scale and being funded by Front Range Pipeline LLC. There will be no excessive stress placed on the existing infrastructure of the area.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

The proposed action is following State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

This proposed project area is in a rural area and has low recreational value. This tract is legally accessible only by the Teton River and the proposed action is not expected to impact general recreational and wilderness activities on this state tract.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

The proposal does not include any changes to housing or developments.

No direct or cumulative effects to population or housing are anticipated.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness or diversity of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The applicant has requested that the pipeline be abandoned in place. The old pipeline is not exposed and currently is 4-5 feet below the bottom of the Teton River. The abandoned pipeline will be flushed, capped and monitored.

This project will benefit the school trust in terms of the \$50.00 fee generated from the easement application. The easement on the Public Land Trust-Navig Rivers trust land in Section 13, T25N, R1W will affect 5.15 rods of riverbed X \$18.00 per rod equals \$92.70. The future easement will be valued at \$100.00. Cumulative impacts are not likely as the area is only used for agricultural and grazing and the buried 16" crude oil pipeline will not affect the long-term viability of agriculture and grazing on the tract.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Tony Nickol	Date: August 16, 2018
	Title: Land Use Specialist, Conrad Unit, Central Land Office	

V. FINDINGS

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed action) – Grant Front Range Pipeline LLC permission to the installation of a 16" crude pipeline and abandon the existing pipeline in place, under the Teton River.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The applicant is proactively applying for an easement to install a new pipeline under the Teton River. The new pipeline will be installed using horizontal directional drilling technology and will be placed at a depth of 50' below the river bottom. This will drastically reduce the chance for a pipeline failure. Greater damages to the resources would occur if the pipeline were removed, compared to abandonment in place. Significant adverse environmental, social or economics are not anticipated.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

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EIS

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More Detailed EA

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No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Erik Eneboe
	Title: Conrad Unit Manger, CLO, DNRC
Signature: 	
Date: August 28, 2018	

